

TEN TRUTHS OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT

1. All parents have hopes and goals for their children
They differ in how they support their children's efforts to achieve those goals

2. The home is one of several spheres that simultaneously influence a child
The school must work with those other spheres for the child's benefit



3. The parent is the central contributor to a child's education
School can either co-opt the role or recognize the potential of the parents

4. Parent involvement must be a legitimate element of education
It deserves equal emphasis with elements such as program improvement

5. Parent involvement is a process, not a program of activities
It requires ongoing energy and effort

6. Parent involvement requires a vision, policy, and framework
A consensus of understanding is important

7. Parents' interaction with their children is the cornerstone of involvement
A program must recognize the value, diversity, and difficulty of this role

8. Most barriers to parent involvement are found within school practices
They are not found within parents

9. Any parent can be "hard to reach"
Parents must be approached individually. They are not defined by gender, ethnicity, family situation, education or income.

10. Successful parent involvement nurtures relationships and partnerships
It strengthens bonds between home and school, parent and educator, parent and child, school and community.